



BUILDINGS ON THE CAMPUS

by Allan E. Maag

COWLEY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Arkansas City, Kansas

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Their Histories Make A Difference

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Unlike writing fiction or philosophy, which relies on imagination or general understanding of values, the writing of history must be as factual as possible. Therefore many people and facets of a community must be utilized in arriving at what really happened in The History of Buildings of Cowley County Community College.

I am indebted to Dr. Gwen Nelson, president of the College, for insisting that a history should be written, for supplying files from his private office, and for his editorial assistance. Too, I am obligated to Ruth Gillock, secretary to the Board of Trustees, and a long time secretary to many offices in the College, for her diligent plowing through mountains of minutes to supply me with valuable information. Sidney Regnier, Dean of Administration for the College, supplied many pertinent facts. The staff of the Renn Memorial Library and the staff of the Public Library were very faithful in providing much needed information. The staff at the City Building was very cooperative, as well as the staff of U. S .D. # 470. I owe my sincerest respect to Lu Nelson, secretary to the Endowment Association, who typed and retyped pages of manuscript and gave valuable assistance in evaluating facts.

This history is more than a one person's achievement. It is a community project - a community which played a major role in creating a college campus comprising many buildings, and sharing in the shaping and development of Cowley County Community College. To all I am indeed grateful.

Sincerely,
Allan Maag

Rarely, are authors recognized on the acknowledgements page, but Allan Maag deserves special treatment. Although he was reluctant to accept this assignment, his perseverance and attention to detail are as evident as in his earlier Histories. His personal knowledge of the community and his style combine to make a catalog of facts both educational and enjoyable. I cannot imagine that he completed this work without a great deal of support from his wife, Geneva.

Thanks Allan and Geneva
Gwen Nelson



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INTRODUCTION

Like many of the two year colleges across the United States and especially in Kansas, Cowley County Community College began as an extension of the existing high school program. As a result, many had no special physical identity, but existed only as a matter of legality authorized by the State Legislature and the approval of the local electorate. Today, some sixty years after a Junior College was established within the confines of the local high school in 1922, the trustees and administrative authorities have title to twelve buildings. All are located on a central campus covering approximately twelve acres.

The greater part of the physical growth of the College is a result of Master Planning Programs instituted by Dr. Gwen Nelson after he became president in 1968. Plans for a new campus area which were already in the planning stages when he became president were rejected by the electorate in October of 1969. It was at this juncture that a systematic planning program began. The first stage was to revise the original proposal and resubmit a new bond issue amounting to \$2,500,000 for a new campus area on land northwest of the city, which had been acquired in part from the Ohio State University Endowment Association. The proposal was rejected by the voters. But rejection did not deter action.

By June of 1971 a revised Master Plan was instituted. The plan involved creating a downtown campus, if title to the building erected for the Junior College could be obtained. Negotiations began with the Board of Education of District 470. Agreement was reached whereby the Cowley County Community College transferred title to land located on West Radio Lane to the Board of Education for title to the building erected in 1952 for usage as a College facility, plus title to the old high school building at the corner of Second Street and Central Avenue. In addition the College Trustees made a cash payment of \$68,000 to District 470 and paid \$40,000 per year for five years. With this transaction complete, the College had its first physical existence. The next decade would witness strong growth. Thus begins the purpose of this history by tracing the development of all the physical features of Cowley County Community College.

Buildings in themselves do not make a college or a university great, but the history of their construction and usage go a long way in reflecting the interplay of forces within a community from one decade to another. It is therefore the purpose of this History of Buildings now owned by Cowley County Community College to depict those interplays in the

community, the state and the world at large.

The basic techniques of historical research will be followed as closely as possible in order to comprehend the many given situations. Strong effort has been made to resolve pure hearsay and reality in order to obtain a clear picture of the physical development of the College campus, and preserve it for future contemplation.

Some phases have been relatively easy, especially on those structures that have been designed and erected in the past ten years. The varying echoes of many voices concerning the buildings dating back to 1890, 1906, 1912, 1918, 1922, and 1936 were far more difficult to orchestrate with true historic documentation, rather than legends and folk lore.



GALLE-JOHNSON HALL

A historic break through in the physical development of what is now Cowley County Community College occurred by 1952. Veterans returning to civilian life, from World War II and the Korean conflict, plus a change in the overall complexion of the entire economy, were causing enrollments to gradually burst the walls of the "basement university". The original College had been housed in the Arkansas City High School building for thirty years.

The five years between the end of World War II and the middle of the Twentieth Century witnessed dramatic change in most areas of American life, and this was particularly true on college campuses. The College in Arkansas City was no exception. The returning veterans of foreign wars were taking advantage of G. I. benefits. Transforming Strother Field - an air force base established during World War II - into an industrial complex, had a strong impact on demands for vocational education. No longer could the College manage to handle the demands.

A shift in school administrators, with a new superintendent of schools - Dr. J. J. Vineyard, and a new dean of the college - K. R. Galle, was a strong factor in producing "changes in the affairs" of the College. With the support of the Board of Education, a date was set for a \$350,000 bond issue to build a new College structure. On April 1, 1947, the voters of Arkansas City endorsed the proposition. The time was ready for change.

The Board of Education in 1947, composed of Dr. Claude Young, George Gardner, Albert Newman, Ivan Upson, Morris Wilkins and Robert Woods, took advantage of the opportunity to buy property on the north side of Fifth Avenue in the three hundred block. The east portion of the property had been the site of a hotel which had been razed. The west portion was property of the Probst Estate. The school had been using it as a play ground for the junior high school. Since it was already school property, the the board decided to locate the proposed College building on the site.

Following the outcome of the 1947 election, the architectural associates of W. W. Williams and Victor Loeb sack of Topeka, were hired to design and oversee the building project. A contract was left with D. C. Bass and Sons of Enid, Oklahoma, to direct the actual work. Groundbreaking took place on December 10, 1950, and within a short time the new College building was on its way.



The original plan called for a two story brick structure extending the length of the block. It was to contain twelve to fifteen classrooms, two science classrooms with laboratories, a home economics area, office space, an auditorium to the west, a teachers' lounge, and restrooms on both floors. The building was to be heated by a steam line crossing Fifth Avenue from a central plant in the High School. When the contractors began work on the piers to support the building, they estimated that the cost of digging through the rubble of huge rocks which had filled the basement area from the former hotel, could best be spent with an additional \$4,000, to remove all the debris, and put a basement under the east portion of the building. This would add an additional space for storage and other uses. The Board quickly accepted the suggestion and the work progressed. Only the future use of that basement area could testify to the wisdom of that decision.

According to a story in the college paper, The Tiger Tales, high hopes were held that the formal spring dance, "The Tigerama", of the 1952 class could be held in the new structure. With special permission the event was allowed. However, the building was ready for full occupancy for the opening of the fall term. The landscaped brick structure held quite an appeal to the entering classes, the faculty, and the community. Soon after the beginning of the 1952 term an open house and grand reception was held for the public. The Board of Education members at the time of final construction were P. W. Allee, W. E. Burton, Guy Hutchinson, Dr. W.C. Weston, Morris Wilkins, and Robert Woods.

Since that eventful year the building has undergone many changes. Unfortunately, there were no arrangements for a library in the building. Students still had to cross the street to the high school library for reference materials when needed. That problem was met by taking parts of rooms designated for other purposes, and the College part of the library was moved to the new building. At first it was on the main floor, and was later moved to the second floor, where it remained until the Renn Memorial Library was opened in 1974.

Other major changes took place, especially in that part which was once storage space in the basement. First to materialize was a student center for games and relaxation and office spaces for College instructors. Next came a bookstore which went through several transformations. The journalism classes eventually were moved to the area, then more administrative offices for athletic directors and counselors. When the new student center opened and there was no need for the space in the basement, more storage room was available for records. A faculty lounge was added after student recreational usage was no longer necessary. The last move to the lower level was the art department. Students in the

1950's returning to visit the College thirty years later are amazed at the transformation of the one time basement area.

On the first floor visitors can still find the original office space, and become bewildered as they view the carpeted rooms of the spacious president's office, office areas for teachers, the enlarged music rooms, and the refurbished auditorium. The second floor has had the fewest alterations. What was once the library is now conference rooms, and offices for instructors on the top level.

At the commencement exercises in 1974, the 1952 structure was officially named Galle-Johnson Hall honoring the work of the late K. R. Galle, who was dean at the time of its construction, and the late Dr. Paul Johnson, who was the first president of the College after it became Cowley County Community College. The previous year the trustees had approved the action to give the east front of the building a new face by adding graceful brick walls across the front in keeping with architectural lines designed for all newly erected buildings. Mrs. Nelson, "Lu" to almost everyone, with the aid of students, supervised the landscaping of the site. As one looks at the outside of Galle-Johnson Hall, one sees something of a similarity to the surrounding buildings even though there is an age span of almost thirty years. The planners planned well.

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RENN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

After the completion of Galle-Johnson Hall in 1952 another score of years was to pass before another building would be added to the College campus. A bequest of nearly \$300,000 from the Oscar Renn estate designated to be used for building a library for the College started the wheels of development turning. Oscar Renn had been an instructor at the College at one time. Later he went into law practice but his interest in the College never waned.



RENN MEMORIAL LIBRARY - Built in 1972-1973.

With a sizeable sum available upon which to operate, the trustees were soon able to match the amount. The problem of a good location was a question for a time. The final decision was to petition the City to close Fifth Avenue from Second Street to Third, and have that portion become a College parking area. Also, the petition was to close Fifth Avenue from Third Street to the alley west of it. By buying the property on either side of that area from Ida Wooley, Lloyd Pappan, and Norman Iverson, the structure could be placed in the very core of a newly developing College Campus complex.

When all the real estate deals were complete, progress toward realization began. On January 21, 1972, an agreement was made with architects from Arkansas City and Winfield--Yaden, Potter, Stitzel and Thoma, Inc. - to prepare a master plan and specifications for, and supervision of construction of the Library and Learning Resource Center. Bids by the contractors were opened on August 21, 1972. The Coon Construction Company of Winfield, Kansas, being the lowest bidder was offered the contract on a bid of \$454,477. The architects fee amounted to \$11,280. On completion the furnishings and equipment came to \$30,000. For less than half a million dollars the College would be getting a first class facility that would adequately meet the needs of the College and the community.

A ground breaking ceremony was held on the site September 14, 1972. Within a short time excavation and other clearing was underway. Edward Gilliland, Jack Mercer, and Walter David were on the Board of Trustees in the early stages of planning for the library. By the time the actual construction was underway the trustees who were working with the administration were: Aubrey Foster, S. Andrew Swoyer, Dr. Charles Kerr, Harold Walker, Dan Walker, and Walter David. However, before completion W. H. "Pat" Ireland had been elected to fill the spot vacated by Dan Walker, and Joe McFall was appointed to complete the term of Walter David who had resigned because of health.

The architectural lines and designs adopted in planning the building were to set a style that would be followed in all subsequent new structures as a part of an overall Campus Master Plan. The new styling featured a low flat roof with three foot concrete and asbestos cornices, a pattern created in Belgium. Another characteristic feature was curved lines at the base of the walls and columns. This can be noticed in the student center, industrial technology, and business technology buildings, and in the new front added to Galle-Johnson Hall. Every effort was taken toward utilitarian and energy conservation techniques.



Designed for more than a library to house books and other printed matters, the Renn Memorial Library was to be a media center. It would be a hub of learning for the entire College. In addition to storage and reading space for more than 30,000 volumes, it features conference rooms, learning skills laboratories, ABC, GED, and ESL learning resource center, sound recordings, and video tapes for check-out purposes, television equipment, and photographic development.

A dedication ceremony was held on Sunday, April 16, 1974. Headlining the services were addresses by the Honorable Bob Dole, U. S. Senator from Kansas, and Governor Robert Docking, of the State of Kansas. The formal presentation was made by Mrs. Audra Stark who had been a long time friend of the Oscar Renn family. It was at the dedicatory service that the Board of Trustees officially named the building the Renn Memorial Learning Center. A bronze plaque of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Renn was placed on the wall in the foyer of the center. Too, there was a plaque designating College officials and Trustees at the time.

Not only has the Learning Center served the school in numerous ways, it has been a focal point for many organizational meetings for the entire community. It is an ideal place for small seminars, conventions, election schools, and many chamber of commerce sponsored events. The Institute of Lifetime Learning finds it an ideal place for many of its activities. Indeed, the Library is a fitting memorial to the donors, and a wise move by the trustees and administrators to locate it as the hub of the College.

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INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY BUILDING

The decade of the 1970's can best be recalled, perhaps, by national and international affairs. Paramount were: the re-election of Richard Nixon as President; the Watergate scandal which followed; his resignation; his pardon by Gerald Ford; long lines at the gas pumps; the hostage crisis in Iran; the Bi-centennial celebration; Robert Docking's four terms as Governor of Kansas; and the election of Ronald Reagan as President.

It was while the above events were transpiring that the student enrollments at Cowley County Community College were rapidly increasing each semester. The Area Vocational-Technical School was, to a large extent, responsible for the growth. Existing facilities were far from adequate. Space in the Arkansas City Office Building was being rented for computer science courses, and a building at the north edge of the city was leased for industrial technology courses. The upper floor of the old junior high school was rented from U. S. D. # 470 for agri-business, accounting, and other related courses. Space was at a premium. A need for action was an imperative.



INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY BUILDING - Built in 1973 - 1974.

Shortly after Dr. Gwen Nelson became president of the College, he convinced the Trustees that to really succeed, a master plan for the physical growth of the institution was an absolute necessity. With national and international affairs in something of an uneasy state, it was quite difficult to sell the county electorate on a \$3,700,000 bond issue to build a \$5,165,070 campus even though \$1,465,070 could be obtained from Federal Funds and self-amortizing revenue bonds. That issue failed in the October 28, 1969, election.

On October 30, 1969, and on November 3, 1969, following the defeat of the bond issue, two editorials were published expressing sentiments that developed during the campaign - one in the Arkansas City Traveler and one a few days later in the Winfield Courier. The Editor of the Traveler was Dave Beliles and the Editor of the Courier was Bill Taylor. The Traveler editorial is as follows:

THE SOUTH SHALL RISE AGAIN

Wednesday morning arrived in dismal gray garb with heavy skies and chilling rain, making the day a perfect reflection of the spirits of those persons who gave so much effort to the Cowley County Community College bond issue which was defeated in Tuesday's county-wide elections.

It was a heavy vote for an off-year special election with better than 60 percent of the registered voters marching to the polling places to make their wishes on the bond issue known.

It is a lamentable but nonetheless true fact that the dichotomy between Winfield and the northern half of the county and Arkansas City and the southernmost sections of the county is severe. The truth to this statement is pointed up in the junior college voting. While the Arkansas City Voters were giving the bond issue an enthusiastic endorsement by an almost 3 - 1 margin, Winfield voters, only a few miles away, were literally smashing the issue down by a 5 - 1 rejection margin.

It is certainly a rather amazing division between the wishes of citizens of the same county. But it is a stultifying phenomenon that discourages almost any variety of genuine progress toward thinking of our future as a county unit or a geographic region.

It must be admitted now that the college can expect little help from the Winfield area. Although slightly more than 400 brave, independent souls cast favorable ballots for the bond issue in Winfield proper, the overwhelming negative vote ratio was a shock to even the pessimistic vote prognosticators. The rural vote, with a few southern Cowley County exceptions, was also more negative than anticipated.

Turning to a more pleasant aspect of the election: the 3 - 1 favorable vote in the Arkansas City area is deserving of applause. At a time when bond issues are having serious problems securing voter approval, this positive response to the needs of our community college is a tribute to the progressive forward-thinking electorate of the Arkansas City area.

While it has not been established at this writing exactly what course will now be pursued by the college and its friends, it is assumed that we cannot supinely accept the death of this important institution after just one rescue attempt.

We dare not write off our brave and true few friends in Winfield when we once again undertake this worthy struggle. Some of them, including one Winfield member of the college board of trustees, worked in the very face of that negative tide, taking the criticism of their friends and neighbors, unflinching in their devotion to the uphill task. But we surely, (and more sadly) now know where the next bond election must be won. Even though a 3 - 1 favorable margin is good, even admirable, on the next occasion we must turn out in even greater numbers and make the vote 6 - 1 to save the county's only public college.

We must enlighten our own unenlightened and then rise up as one man and smite the Philistines of the North hip and thigh, in order to protect our "children of the light" as well as provide for many of their own children.

We deplore this debilitating divisiveness that hangs like Wednesday's clouds, thick and low over the county, sometimes obscuring the area's bright future. But Tuesday has proved, on the college question at least, that compromise and concessions and treading softly are of little avail.

So be it.

The South shall rise again. Yea verily and amen.

On November 3, 1969, the entire Traveler editorial was reprinted in the Winfield Courier followed by these comments:

The above editorial appeared in the Arkansas City Traveler Wednesday following last week's voting on the proposed CCCJC bond issue.

We think too much emphasis is placed on the rivalry between the two communities because it should be remembered that a bond issue for Winfield's own high school failed in May 1968 by a 3198 to 982 margin. The rural vote on that issue was no 1031, yes 131.

What is more probable, it seems to us, is that the public wasn't sold on either bond proposal, or on the way it was presented, and made their feelings known at the polls.



Even though the CCCJC proposal lost, Dr. Gwen Nelson, the head of the CCCJC, made a great many friends during the campaign. He preserved his personal integrity in an exceedingly trying situation and demonstrated that the CCCJC is fortunate to have a man of his stature as its head.

On February 2, 1971, the Trustees submitted a \$2,500,000 bond issue to the voters proposing the construction of a campus on property already owned by the College on Radio Lane on the northwest edge of Arkansas City. This proposal did not include facilities for industrial technology programs. The issue did not pass. On April 6, 1971, the trustees re-submitted the \$2,500,000 bond issue and, again, it was defeated. Soon after these failures, and after receiving a liberal bequest from the Oscar Renn Estate to build a library, the original master plan was altered somewhat. The President and Trustees agreed that the most logical action would be to re-shape the Master Plan around a downtown area, beginning with where they were, and taking one step at a time.

With the Renn Library well under construction the Trustees set April 3, 1973 as the time to submit a \$1,165,000 bond issue to the voters of the county. The proposition submitted included three phases, namely: the construction of an industrial technology unit, a business technology unit, and a central heating unit. After a very informative campaign, in which the emphasis was placed on facilities for the occupational programs of the College, the issue carried almost two to one. The public seemed well aware that growth of the College, as well as the community, depended upon positive action - specifically, upon providing training in the occupational areas.

Dr. Nelson and the Board of Trustees agreed that the business technology unit could well be built on land to the north of the existing College building and that land near the college should be acquired on which to construct the industrial technology facility. A search in the vicinity found that the property south of Fifth Avenue and west of Fourth Street would be the best. There were approximately twenty-six lots available at reasonable prices from seven property owners, and the city of Arkansas City. Arrangements were made for the purchase.

To hasten the proceedings on construction, the Architectural Associates of Charles Thoma and Don H. Potter were authorized to draw plans for the proposed industrial technology unit. When specifications were ready, bids for the work were advertised, and on August 28, 1973, they were opened for examination by the trustees. Simpson and Son of

Wichita, Kansas; Peterson-Vaughn, Wichita, Kansas; and Bellis Electric, Winfield, Kansas, were awarded the contracts for a total of \$648,904. Final agreement on the project was reached on September 17, 1973. Besides President Gwen Nelson, the Trustees signing the papers were Aubrey Foster, Walter David, Harold Walker, Dr. Charles Kerr, W. H. "Pat" Ireland, and S. Andrew Swoyer.

The Industrial Technology Building was constructed in three segments: an area 80' x 80' for electronics, and drafting, another 136' x 64' for welding and machine shop, and the third area 100' x 64' for auto mechanics. In addition, the building contained office space, conference rooms, reception area and classroom space. The front of the north section of the building carried enough of the design used in the construction of the Renn Library to stay in line with all newly erected buildings, namely - low roofing, mezzanine framing, and a curved base. The remainder was designed for practicality to fit intended usage, and energy conservation features were employed throughout.

The building was ready for occupancy on December 16, 1974. The Industrial Technology Building is one of the best designed and equipped facilities of its kind in the mid-west.

The Carpentry Shop phase of industrial technology was passed over in the original planning, largely because it was already housed in the high school building acquired by the trustees in the 1971 transfer of property with U. S. D. # 470. Not until 1977 when an intensive drive began to restore the high school building as a historical landmark was there a keen awareness of the fact that the carpentry shop should have been a part of the industrial technology unit.

To be ready for any future development with the Old High School Building, the administration had Charles Thoma, architect, review and revise plans for an addition to the Industrial Technology Building. On February 20, 1978, Mr. Thoma had completed bid documents for the proposed addition, and they had been reviewed by the State architect. The Board of Trustees entered into an agreement with Mr. Bob Sherrard of Winfield, Kansas, as the general contractor for the project. The addition was to the northwest side of the existing Industrial Technology Building.



The Carpentry addition was completed by October of 1978 at a cost of approximately \$100,000, and soon readied for occupancy. Now, more than before, the College had an outstanding industrial technology facility to meet the demands of the area.

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BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY BUILDING

As a part of the package in the April 3, 1973, bond vote, the College administration and trustees proceeded with the construction of a business technology center soon after the industrial technology unit was under way. Bids were opened on February 6, 1974, following the approval of architectural plans drawn by the same architects as those that had designed the Industrial Technology Building. The estimated cost amounted to \$320,000.

The Business Technology Building was constructed on land already owned by the College as a result of the 1971 property exchange with U. S. D. # 470. The land was immediately north of Galle-Johnson Hall. An existing building which had been a restaurant in the 1920's, had been enlarged and remodeled to serve as a small shop for auto mechanics, welding and some machine shop work. But the school had outgrown the facility and moved elsewhere.



ARCADE OF BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY BUILDING - Built in 1973 -1974.

The brick structure with the same pattern in overall design as was used in the construction of the Renn Library with one exception, the Business Technology Building featured a long open arcade on the south with benches giving the atmosphere of ease and relaxation. It was joined to Galle-Johnson Hall by a spacious commons area.



The firm of Simpson and Son of Wichita, Kansas, was the general contractor; Peterson-Vaughn of Wichita, Kansas, was awarded the mechanical contract; and Rundel Electric of Winfield, Kansas, was awarded the electrical contract. Since the same company was already at work on the Industrial Technology Building, work was soon underway on the business technology unit. By early Fall the structure was practically complete, and ready for occupancy on November 11, 1974.

The building contains two classrooms for business management and agri-business with conference room and office space; two commercial and stenographic rooms, and office; a room for computer science; an accounting room and office; and one room for police science with a lab and an office . Since the completion of the Service Technology Building the police science room has been utilized for the expansion of computer science.

In conjunction with the construction of the Business Technology Building there was an agreement that a new central heating plant would be built in the space between Galle-Johnson Hall and the Business Technology Building. The same contractor was to be in charge of it. This facility would allow for a better heating system for Galle-Johnson Hall. It was completed in the Fall of 1974.

The total cost of the Business Technology Building was \$350,000; the cost of the central power plant with the cooling and heating system to serve Galle-Johnson Hall and the business technology building amounted to \$76,035; and the architects fee for the three projects was \$60,340. Altogether the industrial and business technology buildings plus the central power plant came to a grand total of \$1,135,279. The funds available for the three projects were general obligation bonds and a special building fund. In surveying the totals against the bond issue approved on April 3, 1973, one finds that the projects were completed, with a balance which was transferred to the Student Service Center project.

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4. Plaque on Wall of Foyer.

RECREATION BUILDING

Demand was the keyword in bringing about the construction of the Recreation Building located at 617 West Washington Avenue, which is a short distance from the main campus area. The decade of the nineteen-seventies experienced the increased expansion of physical education programs in all levels of the School District and the Community College, plus a growing demand for adult physical fitness programs. With participation of girls - as well as boys - in basketball, volleyball, tennis, and various types of physical fitness programs, the existing Auditorium-Gymnasium did not contain enough space, nor were there enough hours in the day to schedule all of the demands for its usage.

Early in that decade, following an in-depth study of the needs for physical education facilities, plans were made to resolve the dilemma. By the time plans were approved for the construction of an adequate facility for the College, inflated prices of materials and labor had caused the total cost for the construction of this project to far exceed the budgeted funds available for the project. This situation posed another dilemma - either eliminate much needed space and equipment, or reach out to the community and friends of the College for the additional money needed. The issue was settled by a determined effort on the part of Dr. and Mrs. "Lu" Nelson and many supporters of the college to raise an additional \$50,000 to \$60,000.



RECREATION BUILDING - Completed in 1976.

The mission was accomplished and the College Trustees authorized Charles Thoma to finalize plans for the building. In 1975 a contract was let with Richardson Brothers, Incorporated, of Winfield, Kansas, to erect a 110' x 90' re-enforced Kirby steel structure with single score concrete block walls. The building would be heated with a forced air system. The facility was to include shower and locker-rooms, restrooms, and office space for coaches/directors on each side.

The Recreation Building was ready for use by the end of 1976. While intercollegiate games could not be played in the facility because no provisions had been made for spectator sports, it did allow for an adequate practice area for men and women athletic programs of the College.

The following is a summary of the total costs of the Recreation Building. This information was taken from the Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting on October 18, 1976.

Site Acquisition	\$ 15,700
Construction Contract	151,108
Architectural Fees	9,066
Painting Contract	6,745
Fixed Equipment	13,073
Floor Covering	<u>16,524</u>
Total	\$ 212,216

The Minutes further stated that "When presently owned equipment is completely moved in, and the grounds are fully landscaped, it is estimated the building and contents will be valued at nearly \$250,000. It is also anticipated that it will be one of the most heavily used buildings of the College."

After acquisition and complete remodeling of the Auditorium-Gymnasium in 1981-1982, the Recreation Building is still one of the busier spots on the campus. A check with the daily schedule finds a variety of basketball, badminton, volleyball, weight lifting, running and jogging, scooter carts, whiffle ball, personal physical fitness, aerobic dancing, horse shoes, and most any type of activity requiring physical stress. A fulltime director is in charge of activities, and the program runs at least five days a week from early morning to late

evening. No way can it be viewed as obsolete, but definitely enhances the athletic program of "Tigerland".

While the Recreation Building has not been, or will it ever be the scene of spectacular sporting events, it can and will be revered as the training ground for winning teams, fighting teams, healthier bodies, and improved physical fitness for all ages, including senior citizens.

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5. Plaque Hanging in Recreation Building.

THE NELSON STUDENT CENTER

The jewel of the Cowley County Community College Campus is, without much doubt, the Nelson Student Center. It has an ideal location, being centered between the College Dormitory, the Renn Memorial Library, and Galle-Johnson Hall. A beautifully landscaped mall enhances the ultra-modern design in its architecture, which follows very closely that of the Renn building.



NELSON STUDENT CENTER - Built in 1975 - 1976.

Too, it was a long awaited building. The original student recreation room on the lower level of Galle-Johnson Hall was far from being adequate, especially for student bodies that were increasing every year. The snack machines and pop dispensers did not satisfy healthy, vigorous people in search for better living. The administrators and trustees were well aware of the situation. By surveying the possibilities of financing such a center without a bond assessment, it was concluded that by using monies from three sources the project could be achieved. Through general revenues from a building and grounds fund, a student facility fund, and a special building fund, and some special gifts from supporters of the College, the estimated cost of \$333,736.31 made possible the much needed Center.

Property was purchased from Jessie Dean, Harley Harger, and Mrs. Gus Gilbert. The lots were immediately north of the Renn Library. Don H. Potter and Associates were



commissioned to draw up the necessary architectural plans and have them approved by the State Architect. With the preliminary steps taken, the trustees entered into a contract with Simpson and Sons of Wichita, Kansas, as the general contractor in November, 1974. By the spring of 1976 the building was ready for occupancy. At the Annual Meeting of the Endowment Association, which was held at the Center in September, 1976, the building was named the Nelson Student Center by action of the trustees. It was a tribute to the strong leadership which Dr. Nelson had given to the College and the community, and his wife Lu Nelson, who was a determined achiever.

The building area contains 6200 square feet of space. It features a cafeteria area seating 120, or more, at a given time. In addition there is the Henrietta Courtright Conference Room which can comfortably seat thirty-two for smaller dinners, or serve as overflow for the main dining room. There is a large game room on the east side with ping pong and pool tables and other games facilities. A beautiful lounge, complete with fireplace, faces the mall to the south and there is ample office space for supervisors. At the opening there were two conference rooms, but when need for more kitchen space arose, the one room was transformed to kitchen and storage space. The Student Government Association (SGA) has an office in the center. In the Fall of 1976 when the Center was opened it had a T. V. Room, but on completion of the dormitory in 1981 the T. V. room was transferred to that building. The College Book Store was re-located from Galle-Johnson Hall to the lower level of the new Center.

The Nelson Center is more than a student center. It serves the whole community in many ways. When available, many clubs hold dinner meetings either in the Courtright Room, or the main dining room, but student food service is the main mission. In the 1983 spring term the Food Service Manager estimated that 78% of the students used the food service. Each spring the Endowment Association of the College uses the facility for its annual "Pig Dinner". It is an ideal place for afternoon teas and receptions. The faculty finds it an ideal place for a coffee break. In almost every way - it is a jewel.

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2. Clippings from Newspapers on File in President's Office.
3. Plaque on Wall of Foyer in the Building.

DORMITORY FACILITIES

A history of College Dormitory Facilities must begin with a description of housing needs and conditions as they existed in the '60's. From the beginning of the College in 1922 until the mid to late '60's, the College had functioned predominantly as a commuter college. Most of the students were local residents or lived within driving distance of the College. The few who were non-residents were able to obtain housing from private citizens.

During the '60's, enrollment at the College started to increase significantly with a greater number of students coming from outside the County. Early attempts on the part of College personnel to secure privately owned facilities, where the owners were willing to rent to students, were made by Del Heidebrecht, Ben Cleveland, Bill Scott, and Dr. Nelson. With the increasing enrollment it became evident that the College was losing students, and would continue to lose students, who were unable to obtain satisfactory living quarters. Mr. Heidebrecht, Mr. Cleveland, and Mr. Scott began to solve the problem by identifying private citizens who were happy to cooperate with the College in an effort to ease the situation. Some of the early pioneers in this venture included: Aileen Haynes, Norman Iverson, George and Betty Sybrant, Vic Bryant, Aubrey Foster, Elmer Morris, Vera Tipton, Ethel Young, Walt and Ruth Fesler, Bruce and Dorothy Smith, Chuck Dumenil and Fern Culmer. When Dr. and Mrs. Nelson discovered that it was next to impossible for non-resident black students to locate housing, they purchased a house at 215 N. Fifth Street to rent to students (black - white - athletes - non-athletes). All in all, these efforts helped, but as enrollment continued to increase, other approaches to solving the problem needed to be explored.

The College Endowment Association recognized that this was an area in which it could support the College. On August 3, 1973, a rest home known as the Avalon House, located at 1325 N. First Street, was purchased from Ava Stanley. This building had formerly been known as "Stricklen Hospital". The Association intended to lease the facility, with its capacity to house thirty students, to the College at the beginning of the Spring Semester in 1974. However, before students even moved in, the property was essentially destroyed by fire.

The Association used funds from the insurance settlement and the sale of the property to purchase Green Manor, located at 112 E. Central, on August 1, 1974, and the Lesem Apartments, located at 413 W. Fifth Avenue, on November 8, 1974. These facilities were capable of housing up to forty students. The next properties purchased were Bengal Hall (220

N. Third) and South Hall (203 E. Madison) on May 13, 1977, and College Hall (307 S. First) on May 20, 1977. The last purchase was the Purdue property (411 W. Central) on August 23, 1977.

In the meantime, the College had purchased the Kitchens property (116 S. Fourth), and the Purdue and Worthington properties completing possession of the west side of the 100 block on South Third. The number of students housed by all the facilities totaled less than 100.

During this time, a feature writer from the Arkansas City Traveler, Suzie Edgerly, launched a campaign to write an in-depty expose of physical conditions of the properties used as housing for College students. She won national recognition for her efforts, while making the situation exceedingly embarrassing for the College and the Endowment Association.

At no time had the College considered these efforts to be a permanent arrangement. A proposal for a project to construct a motel/hotel type of facility, which could be used for student housing and student food services, was denied approval for available federal funds on the basis that the unemployment rate in Cowley County was too low.

The second proposal was to build a three-story atrium type of facility, around a garden area and swimming pool, was not approved by the State Architect. So, a different approach had to be taken.

TIGER HALL

In June of 1979 the College purchased Tiger Hall from the Endowment Association after the Endowment Association had completed extensive remodeling, which satisfied the requirements of the building and fire codes. The apartment building was built in the era of World War I by the Lesem sisters as a new concept for gracious living near the downtown area. The location was in walking distance of the city and near the street car and interurban line. It was a type of housing pre-dating the condominium and townhouse life style of today. The Endowment Association had purchased Tiger Hall from Mrs. Fern Culmer, who operated it for awhile as a student rooming facility. The three-story structure made available dormitory space for thirty-two students plus an apartment for a resident manager. After acquisition of the facility by the College it has undergone further renovation.



TIGER HALL - Purchased by the College Endowment Association in 1979.

STUDENT DORMITORY

Since adequate and good housing had been a problem facing the College administration almost from the start, and as private homes became more scarce, it was imperative that the problem must be solved in another manner. Following the rejection of the first two proposals for the construction of dormitories, the College altered the original proposal for a dormitory and re-submitted the proposal to the State Architect. Because of the original rejection the atrium and the swimming pool were omitted, and the plans called for a conventional three-story facility. As happened in the case of the Recreation Building, by the time the proposed plans were approved, the costs had sky-rocketed.

By 1980 all the property had been purchased by the Trustees. The plans were drawn by Charles W. Thoma and Associates and the construction contract was awarded to Wheatland Company, Inc. of Wichita, Kansas. The cost of the Dormitory was \$800,000 and was financed by revenue bonds and \$250,000 raised by the Endowment Association.

The dormitory has the facilities to house eighty-two students. In addition, there is an area for the resident manager, a laundry room, and a reception area adjoining the Nelson



Center. Being adjacent to the Nelson Student Center, the recreational facilities offered there are ample for the resident students.

The Student Dormitory was dedicated in June of 1981 and was occupied for the first time in the Fall of 1981. To partially solve a parking problem the land on both sides of the alley behind the dorm has been paved and reserved for student residents.



STUDENT DORMITORY - Built in 1980 - 1981.

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IRELAND HALL - SERVICE TECHNOLOGY CENTER

The "Crown Prince" of the College campus today is the original stone high school erected in 1890. By some "quippers" it has been call "The Red School House". Recently it has been named the W. H. "Pat" Ireland Hall. The intent of this chapter is to trace the history of the "Crown Prince" from the era of its construction to the present time.



IRELAND HALL - Built in 1890 - restored in 1980 - 1982.



The last twenty years of the Nineteenth Century witnessed a remarkable change in the development of Arkansas City. The Santa Fe Railroad had extended its line into the city and on into Oklahoma in 1880. Other lines soon followed and brought new settlers - many from European countries and many from the Eastern States. The opening of portions of Oklahoma Territory in 1889, and again in 1893 with the opening of the Cherokee Strip, added to the population changes. Numerous new business firms were established. There were new needs and new challenges. It was definitely an era of speculation and innovation.

With a plethora of native stone suitable for building material, many stone structures began to line Summit Street and across town on Fifth Avenue. Some of those buildings are still standing. Many have felt the hammers of destruction. Among the few stone buildings, standing somewhat as they were almost a century ago, is the "Old High School Building" which has been designated as a historical landmark by the National Register of Historical Places, and the Historic Preservation Department of the Kansas State Historical Society.

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According to later issues of the Weekly Republican, the excavation was completed by July 10, 1890, and stone work began the same day. There seems to be no record of the number of masons, carpenters, and laborers employed. But in an era before there were labor laws, workman's compensation, and weekly hours of work, it is estimated the daily pay of the workers would not have been more than a dollar a day. One stone mason on the job was the father of Mrs. Paul Cary, who is living in Arkansas City today. She tends to support the above thesis about hours and wages.

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"This magnificent structure is an outstanding example of the stonecutters art. With careful attention to superb detail, expert stone handling and remarkable knowledge of their craft, the stone masons combined Silverdale limestone and red mortar to produce a startlingly beautiful school building. Each exterior stone was hand cut with intricate carved patterns, further enhancing the quality of the building."

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In all the intervening years, little upkeep was made and a gradual deterioration was threatening any practical use. There was a move on the part of the school authorities to have it demolished in 1949. Many of the former students and teachers, along with many concerned citizens delayed any action. In 1971, title to the building was transferred to the Cowley County Community College from U. S. D. # 470 as part of a transaction of school properties.

The College made some minor repairs and used it for classrooms in social studies for a few years. Part of the building was used for the carpentry program, and the Endowment/Alumni Office was located there for six months in the Spring of 1978. Upkeep posed serious problems and questions were raised as to the proper action to take. It was at this juncture that the Arkansas City Historical society and other concerned citizens started a move to have it renovated and made into a cultural arts center. A drive was instituted to



raise funds, and the College Trustees made an appeal to the City, the State, and the Federal government for assistance in the project. Application was made through the Kansas State Historical society to have it declared a historical landmark.

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By seeking bids for the first phase of renovation, the Kansas State Board of Education would allow \$300,000, accumulated in the vocational-technical capital outlay fund to be used in the renovation. With this amount, plus city monies from the Arkansas City Community Development Fund, a new application was made through the Kansas State Historical Society, and due approval was made. The total cost could run as high as \$518,157.



With the necessary paper work well out of the way, the College Trustees, in August of 1980, entered into a contract with Landmark Building company, Incorporated of Manhattan, Kansas, to start the renovating process. By the end of September the crown on top of the tower was replaced and other outside work was underway to protect the building from the elements. By February of 1981 the interior phase was in the process of remodeling. Like many building projects, the interior finishing phase is often a slower process, and this proved true with the "old high school". Projecting future remodeling of the building, the plans included the installation of an elevator reaching to the fourth floor. The Viola Industries was awarded the contract for that project.

The lower floor was finished in accordance with the best facilities needed for the school of cosmetology, the second floor for police science, and medical training laboratories. The original board room was made into a reception area, and the original superintendent's office was refinished for police science instruction. By the summer of 1982, practically all the work was finished and the schools of cosmetology and police science were moved in for the opening of the fall term.

A fund drive was started to put a set of carillon bells in the tower. Scarcely had the drive begun when Mrs. E. S. Berry, a long time resident of the City, gave most of the needed amount as a memorial to her late husband, who had been a long time building contractor in Arkansas City. On October 30, 1982, the dedication ceremony was held in the rotunda area of the building with the family being honored on the occasion. The Carillon bells sound at the change of classes throughout the school day and on the hour through the weekend.

The building was officially dedicated on December 12, 1982, in association with the dedication of the remodeled Auditorium-Gymnasium. It was on this specific occasion that the "Old High School" was officially named the W. H. "Pat" Ireland Hall. Mr. Ireland, before his death in October, 1982, had been a strong community supporter and deep believer in the youth of the community, and had served almost ten years on the Board of Trustees.

For the present, the remodeling of the third floor is in a waiting stage. The hope is that adequate funds can be realized somehow to have the original chapel made into a little theater, and other rooms utilized for related phases of cultural growth. The elevator extends to the fourth floor. Only the need, and the dream, will develop that chapter in the long history of the "Crown Prince".

A poem by Karle Wilson Bates seems a fitting way to close this chapter of the restored "old high school"----

"Let me grow lovely growing old,
So many fine things do--
Laces and ivory and gold
And silks need not be new.
There is healing in old trees,
Old streets a glamor hold.
So why may not I, like these,
Grow lovely, growing old."

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THE AUDITORIUM-GYMNASIUM "TIGER TERRITORY"

Amid a nationwide depression, and a severe "dust bowl" era, many innovative actions were taken in an effort to solve social and economic problems. One of the measures taken was the conception of a Public Works Administration (P. W. A.). The key factor in this particular system was the construction of buildings and other publicly used facilities that would be financed in part by federal money, matched by local tax money, and approved by a general election. Here was a formula for action.

Conceived by the city fathers and public school officials, an application was made to the P. W. A. Board in Washington, D. C. "to provide a place for public gatherings, conventions, and public exhibitions, including athletic events" with an added sum for the renovation of a high school building erected in 1890. With a nod from P. W. A. authorities, the city and school officials submitted a bond issue of \$180,000 with the understanding that \$99,000 of the amount would come from local taxes.

A citywide election was held on October 24, 1935. The issue was strongly supported by the voters. The federal agency, however, rejected matching funds for renovating the high school building, resulting in that phase being dropped in further planning.

With a strong endorsement of the people, the city officials authorized the Arkansas City Board of Education to proceed with the necessary steps toward constructing a suitable auditorium-gymnasium, with the understanding that full title and management would be transferred to the school district upon completion.

Prior to the election in October, the Board had employed Mr. Tom Williams, a Topeka, Kansas architect, to draw preliminary plans for a facility similar to the Field House on the campus of Washburn University in Topeka. Board members at the time were: Dr. L. E. Brenz, C. G. Holmsten, Dr. L. M. Beatson, Dr. Claude Young, Dr. R. L. Ferguson, and Dean Trueblood. C. E. St. John was the Superintendent of Schools. Too, a preliminary investigation had been made as to a suitable location.

Following the plebiscite, property owned by Mrs. C. M. Scott and John Probst located at the Northeast intersection of Fifth Avenue and Second Street was purchased, and bids were advertised for construction of the building.

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By seeking bids for the first phase of renovation, the Kansas State Board of Education would allow \$300,000, accumulated in the vocational-technical capital outlay fund to be used in the renovation. With this amount, plus city monies from the Arkansas City Community Development Fund, a new application was made through the Kansas State Historical Society, and due approval was made. The total cost could run as high as \$518,157.

With the necessary paper work well out of the way, the College Trustees, in August of 1980, entered into a contract with Landmark Building company, Incorporated of Manhattan, Kansas, to start the renovating process. By the end of September the crown on top of the tower was replaced and other outside work was underway to protect the building from the elements. By February of 1981 the interior phase was in the process of remodeling. Like many building projects, the interior finishing phase is often a slower process, and this proved true with the "old high school". Projecting future remodeling of the building, the plans included the installation of an elevator reaching to the fourth floor. The Viola Industries was awarded the contract for that project.

The lower floor was finished in accordance with the best facilities needed for the school of cosmetology, the second floor for police science, and medical training laboratories. The original board room was made into a reception area, and the original superintendent's office was refinished for police science instruction. By the summer of 1982, practically all the work was finished and the schools of cosmetology and police science were moved in for the opening of the fall term.

A fund drive was started to put a set of carillon bells in the tower. Scarcely had the drive begun when Mrs. E. S. Berry, a long time resident of the City, gave most of the needed amount as a memorial to her late husband, who had been a long time building contractor in Arkansas City. On October 30, 1982, the dedication ceremony was held in the rotunda area of the building with the family being honored on the occasion. The Carillon bells sound at the change of classes throughout the school day and on the hour through the weekend.

The building was officially dedicated on December 12, 1982, in association with the dedication of the remodeled Auditorium-Gymnasium. It was on this specific occasion that the "Old High School" was officially named the W. H. "Pat" Ireland Hall. Mr. Ireland, before his death in October, 1982, had been a strong community supporter and deep believer in the youth of the community, and had served almost ten years on the Board of Trustees.

For the present, the remodeling of the third floor is in a waiting stage. The hope is that adequate funds can be realized somehow to have the original chapel made into a little theater, and other rooms utilized for related phases of cultural growth. The elevator extends to the fourth floor. Only the need, and the dream, will develop that chapter in the long history of the "Crown Prince".

A poem by Karle Wilson Bates seems a fitting way to close this chapter of the restored "old high school"----

"Let me grow lovely growing old,
So many fine things do--
Laces and ivory and gold
And silks need not be new.
There is healing in old trees,
Old streets a glamor hold.
So why may not I, like these,
Grow lovely, growing old."

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THE AUDITORIUM-GYMNASIUM "TIGER TERRITORY"

Amid a nationwide depression, and a severe "dust bowl" era, many innovative actions were taken in an effort to solve social and economic problems. One of the measures taken was the conception of a Public Works Administration (P. W. A.). The key factor in this particular system was the construction of buildings and other publicly used facilities that would be financed in part by federal money, matched by local tax money, and approved by a general election. Here was a formula for action.

Conceived by the city fathers and public school officials, an application was made to the P. W. A. Board in Washington, D. C. "to provide a place for public gatherings, conventions, and public exhibitions, including athletic events" with an added sum for the renovation of a high school building erected in 1890. With a nod from P. W. A. authorities, the city and school officials submitted a bond issue of \$180,000 with the understanding that \$99,000 of the amount would come from local taxes.

A citywide election was held on October 24, 1935. The issue was strongly supported by the voters. The federal agency, however, rejected matching funds for renovating the high school building, resulting in that phase being dropped in further planning.

With a strong endorsement of the people, the city officials authorized the Arkansas City Board of Education to proceed with the necessary steps toward constructing a suitable auditorium-gymnasium, with the understanding that full title and management would be transferred to the school district upon completion.

Prior to the election in October, the Board had employed Mr. Tom Williams, a Topeka, Kansas architect, to draw preliminary plans for a facility similar to the Field House on the campus of Washburn University in Topeka. Board members at the time were: Dr. L. E. Brenz, C. G. Holmsten, Dr. L. M. Beatson, Dr. Claude Young, Dr. R. L. Ferguson, and Dean Trueblood. C. E. St. John was the Superintendent of Schools. Too, a preliminary investigation had been made as to a suitable location.

Following the plebiscite, property owned by Mrs. C. M. Scott and John Probst located at the Northeast intersection of Fifth Avenue and Second Street was purchased, and bids were advertised for construction of the building.

THE 1922-1982 SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

A rather noteworthy event transpired on January 3, 1983. On that date the student body of the Arkansas City High School abandoned the building which had housed student bodies and faculties since 1922. It is significant to the Cowley County Community College, too, for it was in that same building its forerunner (the Arkansas City Junior College) had its initial start the same year. Now, sixty years later the Trustees of the present College would receive full title to the building within a short time. This was all in accordance with an agreement with the officials of Unified School District 470 when the College Trustees purchased the storm damaged Auditorium-Gymnasium.

In 1922, the city was in high praise of its new facility. The Arkansas City Traveler, dated September 28, 1922, carried the heading "A City Is No Larger Than Its School System". Mr. Clarence Schwann, who at the time was manager of the Comley Lumber Company, which had supplied much of the material for the building, remarked - "Arkansas City with its new high school and newly incorporated junior college now ranks with any town in the state, or in this section of the country, for Twentieth Century facilities and school opportunities".

In retrospect, let the reader look backward over the three scores of years. The building was designed by Thomas Williamson and Company of Topeka, Kansas. It carried the same basic lines of hundreds of schools constructed in that particular era. The three level structure of brick, trimmed in white limestone was marked by soaring dual towers of English Gothic design of the Tudor epoch. Between the towers were elegant stone works and an imposing arched doorway. The building was connected to the Junior High School Building by two passageways, one to the south and one on the north. Thus, access was made to the auditorium and the gymnasium of the building erected in 1918. A small gymnasium was located on the lower floor to be used for small gym classes and social affairs. Besides adequate office space for the principal, it had new office spaces for the superintendent of schools and a new board room. The building was heated with steam from a central plant in the junior high.

George Gassman, a thirty-four year old man, was contracted to supervise the construction of the \$250,000 building which would contain 87,547 square feet of space. On completion, he remarked - "It is fireproof throughout and completely modern...It stands as an

example and marks a milestone in the progress of Arkansas City". The actual work was supervised by R. J. Smith. C. E. St. John had become superintendent of the Arkansas City schools replacing J. B. Heffelfinger. Board members in 1922 were: Dr. E. F. Day, A. L. Newman, R. C. Sowden, Dr. Ione Clayton, Dr. L. E. Brenz, and William Stryker.

Martin Puntney, writing for the *Traveler*, December 23, 1982, neatly phrased sixty years of service the high school building had rendered. "The stairs are the beaches upon which oceans of Arkansas City's youth have ebbed and flowed, adding accretions of memories and traditions while wearing away the substance of the steps themselves." The school building was first used during the "jazz age". It experienced the "great depression" and the "dust bowl" thirties. It felt the anxiety of the Second World War, the Korean Conflict and the Viet Nam disaster. It endured the rebellious sixties, and witnessed the advent of the "space age". Today it stands mute, empty, lonely, affording millions of memories for graduates, former students and faculty members. Its promises, its future, and its fate hang in the balance of College administrative deliberations.

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CURRY FIELD - FROM DUMP TO STADIUM

As far as the Tiger Teams of Cowley County Community College are concerned all home football games have been played on Curry Field. The history of the field is rather unique. The location, which is not far from the main campus area, was once more or less, a slough area which was used somewhat as a city dumping ground. The Midland Valley Railroad had a rather high right of way on the west side, and to the east was a canal used as a source of power for the New Era Mill in its earlier history. Next to it, on the east, was the Frisco railway right of way. The area was not good for home sites, or business. Thus it, by natural neglect, became a "no man's land", or "every one's land".

By 1920, with the Junior High School complete, and action beginning toward building a new high school, and the possibility of a junior college being established, there was an awareness that the next need would be a centrally located football field. Prior to 1920, practice time and games utilized the racetracks - baseball area on East Madison Avenue. Sometimes, a farm field, north of Kansas Avenue and east of what is now Highway 77, was used.

The old dumping ground was wide enough and long enough. It was near the new gym facilities for dressing purposes. It was an ideal spot if it could be resurrected. The Board of Education acquired the property and a filling-in process began. Tons of dirt and gravel were hauled in. The area was leveled and grass was sown. There were no bleachers and no field house - just space. But it was a place to play. For many years there were always holes developing, as old barrels would cave in, or some other strange material would work its way up through the soil from the heavy pounding of feet and falling bodies, as practice time and games were played. Bleachers were finally built on the east side near the canal. Gradually the field stabilized. Finally, a barracks type building was erected to the north for dressing rooms. There were no fences. Faculty members were drafted to guard the field and collect admissions. Occasionally, one might be thrown into the canal. Security was a real problem until years later when the area was completely fenced in.

In 1930 some school funds were diverted from the manual training shops and printing shops, and money was spent to place lights on the field. The 1931 graduating class exercises

of the high school were held on the field at night, and were held there until the Auditorium-Gymnasium was ready for use. There was one exception. In 1935 a horrendous rain storm cancelled the outdoor event. In 1932 the Washington Bi-Centennial was held on the field at night, as was the 1961 Kansas Centennial Celebration.

With heavier uses for the field, there was added additional field house space, a hand operated score board, and later a mechanical one. Also, new bleachers on the west side were erected, complete with a press box. Much of the work in improving the field, from a dump to a creditable playing area, was made by Amos Curry, who became football coach in 1923 and later director of athletics for both the High School and the College. As a token of appreciation for the many hours of work and planning, the Board of Education deemed it wise to name the area Curry Field.

Curry Field has had further improvements when a new Vocational Agriculture shop was built which included in it much needed improved facilities for dressing rooms for both the home and the visiting teams. All the College home games have been played on Curry Field. However, the College has had to use an area to the northwest, called Carver Park, for practices.

The future holds the hope that the College Trustees will be able to acquire Curry Field as the high school develops its new facility near the new building northwest of the city. Time will be the determiner.

Some classic games have been played on Curry Field including State High School championships, and in recent years it has been the scene of the Rodeo Bowl for Community Colleges.

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A SUMMATION

For a college institution that started the last decade without owning a brick to its name, the Cowley County Community College has made great progress in providing physical accommodations for the student bodies and faculty. As the physical features began to grow so did the enrollments. In 1970 the enrollment was 638. For the 1982-1983 academic year the number has more than tripled. Without adequate facilities the tremendous growth could not have been achieved. Programming and academic achievements depend upon accommodations.

According to Dr. Gwen Nelson, little or no construction is anticipated, but practical usage of existing buildings with proper modification can still meet increasing enrollments.

While expenditures in acquiring land and buildings, plus construction of new ones that now comprise the College Campus, might exceed the 3.7 million dollar bond issue which was rejected in 1969, the estimated value of all College-owned properties far exceeds that amount on today's market. Too, a big question remains - would the \$3,700,000 have sufficed to provide adequate facilities for the large enrollments?



Curry Field - First game was played here in the early '20's.



APPENDIX

COWLEY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FACILITIES

August 1, 1983

Building	Constructed /Purchased	Cost to College	Source of Funds	Current Value
Galle-Johnson	1952/1971	\$ 396,000	Property Exchange \$268,000 "Rent" Gen. Fund	\$1,950,000
Renn Memorial Library	1973	526,000	\$316,000 Bequest \$210,000 Student Fees	1,404,000
Industrial Technology	1974	889,349	General Obligation Bonds \$ 95,966 Vo-Tech Grant	1,944,000
Business Tech/Power Plant	1974	350,466	General Obligation Bonds	879,000
Nelson Student Center	1975	363,736	Sp. Bldg. Fund, Student Fees, Endowment Association	586,000
Recreation Building	1977	252,734	Special Building Fund, Endowment Association	308,000
Tiger Hall	1919/1979	132,105	Endowment Association, Student Rent	238,000
Dormitory	1980	800,000	Student Fees/Rent Endowment Assn. (\$200,000)	954,000
Ireland Hall	1890/1982	518,157	Private Grant, HUD Grant, Vo-Tech Grant, Historic Grant	704,000
Auditorium-Gymnasium	1936/1982	801,159	Lease/Purchase (Bldg. Fund) Insurance Proceeds (\$378,837)	1,200,000
Ark City High School	1922/1982	<u>50,000</u>	Lease/Purchase, (Bldg. Fund)	<u>800,000</u>
Total		\$5,079,706		\$10,967,000

SUMMARY OF SOURCE OF FUNDS

Local	State	Federal	Student Fees	Other
\$2,557,010	\$398,966	\$183,989	\$850,000	\$1,089,742





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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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April 6, 1983

Mr. Allan E. Maag
614 North Third
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005

Dear Mr. Maag:

Your request for information about Minneapolis architect, Charles S. Sedgwick, has been referred to me. During my years at the Minnesota Historical Society, I have had the opportunity to view many of Sedgwick's designs and have visited a number of his extant structures. I am enclosing a brief biography of his life and work which appeared in a 1951 PhD. thesis prepared by a former art history professor of mine, Donald R. Torbert (long since retired). From it you can see that Sedgwick was an exceptionally prolific designer who did not know the meaning of "restraint". Although the extant buildings may have been said to have survived because of their quality of materials and straight-forwardness of design, the majority of his buildings were extremely complex, and as such, lost favor due to changing tastes and cost of maintenance.

The old Arkansas City High School appears to be truly one of Sedgwick's more restrained, and therefore, finer architectural designs. Congratulations on its preservation! If I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Charles W. Nelson
Historical Architect
State Historic Preservation Office

CWN:dmb

Enclosure

